

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1486

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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TAGS: CPAS, SCUL

SUBJECT: WELLESLEY COLLEGE APPLICANTS JOY (TSOU-MEI)

REF: (A) STATE 42860 (B) PEKING 285

BEGIN SUMMARY. USLO SEES NO ALTERNATIVE TO DEPT PROPOSAL TO SUGGEST TO WELLESLEY COLLEGE OFFICIALS THAT THEY ADVISE THE YANG SISTERS TO TELEPHONE OR TO VISIT USLO TO DISCUSS APPLICATIONS FOR US CITIZEN DOCUMENTATION, BUT SUCH VISITS TO USLO MAY CAUSE SUBSEQUENT COMPLICATIONS FOR APPLICANTS. DEPTS VIEWS ON POSSIBLE WAYS TO PRECLUDE THESE COMPLICATIONS AND POSSIBLE PUBLICITY ARE SOLICITED. END SUMMARY.

1. USLO SEES NO ALTERNATIVE TO THE DEPT'S PROPOSAL (REFTEL A) TO SUGGEST TO WELLESLEY COLLEGE OFFICIALS THAT THEY ADVISE THE YANG SISTERS TO TELEPHONE OR TO VISIT USLO TO DISCUSS THEIR CASE AND TO FILL OUT THE NECESSARY APPLICATIONS (176, 176-S AND QUESTIONNAIRE) FOR US CITIZENSHIP DOCUMENTATION WHICH USLO WILL FORWARD TO DEPT. WE WILL BE HAPPY TO DISCUSS PROCEDURES WITH DEAN ALICE ILCHMAN.

2. WE ARE CERTAIN THAT THE QUESTION OF VISITING USLO WILL ARISE AND THIS PLACES US IN A DILEMMA AS TO HOW TO ANSWER. ON THE ONE HAND, WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT PRUDENT OR PROPER TO TRY TO CONDUCT OUR CONSULAR BUSINESS IN ANY BUT THE MOST ABOVE BOARD MANNER. THIS MEANS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT WE DO NOT WANT TO BECOME

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INVOLVED IN MEETING INDIVIDUALS WHO LIVE IN PEKING OUTSIDE OF USLO

TO ESCORT THEM TO THE COMPOUND.

3. ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE IS THE DANIEL KELLY PRECEDENT (REFTEL B) AND IF WE ADVISE INDIVIDUALS TO COME TO USLO, WE DO SO KNOWING THEY MAY BE QUESTIONED, DETAINED, OR WORSE BY CHINESE AUTHORITIES.

4. WE KNOW THAT INDIVIDUALS WITH NON-CAUCASIAN FEATURES ARE STOPPED BY THE PLA GUARDS AT THE GATE OF THE USLO COMPOUND. UNLESS THEY HAVE A PASS (OR IN THE CASE OF CHINESE AMERICANS, A PASSPORT OR OTHER IDENTIFICATION), THEY ARE NOT PERMITTED TO ENTER.

5. THERE IS NO QUESTION BUT THAT THE CHINESE ARE RELUCTANT TO COME TO USLO. MRS. ANNA CHUNING HSIAO TOLD US THAT HER SON WAS "AFRAID" TO DO SO. MRS. HSIAO ALSO TOLD US THAT SHE WAS ACCOMPANIED TO USLO ON ONE OF HER VISITS BY HER GRANDDAUGHTER. THE GRAND-DAUGHTER LEFT MRS. HSIAO AT THE INTERSECTION TO THE SOUTHEAST OF USLO, WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY 75 FEET FROM THE COMPOUND GATES. AS THE GRANDDAUGHTER WALKED ON, SHE WAS STOPPED AND QUESTIONED FOR AT LEAST ONE HOUR BY THE PLA AS TO HER RELATIONSHIP WITH "THAT OLD WOMAN."

6. MRS. DOROTHY FISHER-CHENG TOLD US THAT HER DAUGHTER WAS ALSO "AFRAID" TO COME TO USLO. HER DAUGHTER WAS NOT PERMITTED TO ENTER WITH MRS. FISHER-CHENG AT THE TIME OF THEIR FIRST VISIT, BUT WAS PERMITTED TO ENTER WHEN A USLO STAFF OFFICER SPOKE TO THE PLA GUARDS. ON A SUBSEQUENT VISIT BY MRS. FISHER-CHENG, THE DAUGHTER DID NOT EVEN ATTEMPT TO ACCOMPANY HER MOTHER, PREFERRING TO REMAIN OUTSIDE.

7. MOST RECENTLY, PARRIS CHANG, WHO WAS TRAVELLING WITH THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY DELEGATION, VISITED USLO TO DISCUSS A RELATIVE WHO HAD BEEN BORN IN THE U.S. AND WHO WAS INTERESTED IN APPLYING FOR CITIZENSHIP DOCUMENTATION. WE EXPLAINED THE PROCEDURES, AND CHANG SAID THAT HIS RELATIVE, WHO IS A PROFESSOR IN THE CHINESE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, WAS "AFRAID" TO COME TO USLO.

8. CHANG ASKED US WHAT OUR EXPERIENCE HAD BEEN AND WE INFORMED HIM THAT OUR EXPERIENCE HAD BEEN LIMITED BUT THAT WE WERE AWARE THAT CHINESE WERE UNEASY ABOUT COMING TO USLO. WE DID NOT TELL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HIM WHAT WE HAD HEARD HAD HAPPENED TO DANIEL KELLY SUBSEQUENT TO HIS VISIT.

9. BRITISH AND GERMAN CONSULAR OFFICERS STATE THAT THEY RARELY RECEIVE CHINESE VISITORS, AND THEY ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT THERE IS A RELUCTANCE ON THE PART OF THE CHINESE TO VISIT THEIR MISSIONS. MRS. HSIAO'S SON SAID AN ACQUAINTANCE OF HIS WHO HAD GONE TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY HAD BEEN ARRESTED.

10. WE ARE TRYING TO FIND OUT WHERE AND TO WHICH AUTHORITIES CHINESE WHO WISH TO VISIT USLO SHOULD APPLY TO OBTAIN AN ENTRANCE PERMIT. EVEN IF WE WERE TO BE SUCCESSFUL AND COULD INFORM PEOPLE WHO MAKE INQUIRIES, EITHER BY TELEPHONE OR BY LETTER, WHAT THEY SHOULD DO, WE SUSPECT THAT FEW WOULD WISH TO BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF THE OFFICIALS THEIR INTENTION TO VISIT THE LIAISON OFFICE.

11. ONCE THESE "FEARS" BECOME MORE WIDELY KNOWN IN THE US OR ELSEWHERE OR COME TO THE ATTENTION OF INDIVIDUALS SUCH AS DEAN ALICE ILCHMAN, IT SEEMS CERTAIN THAT QUESTIONS WILL BE ADDRESSED TO THE DEPT AND/OR USLO ASKING WHAT IS BEING DONE TO ENSURE NORMAL ACCESS TO OUR OFFICES. WE, OF COURSE, WOULD LIKE TO HEAD OFF SUCH QUESTIONS.

12. ONE OF THE USLO OFFICERS WAS INVOLVED IN THE REPATRIATION OF THE KOREAN WAR DEFECTORS AND HE RECALLS THAT THEY WERE ISSUED CERTIFICATES OF CITIZENSHIP AFTER A BRIEF INTERROGATION WHEN THEY ENTERED HONG KONG FROM THE PRC. WE REALIZE THAT THE INDIVIDUALS WHO APPLY FOR US CITIZENSHIP DOCUMENTATION HERE ARE NOT IN THE SAME CATEGORY SINCE ESTABLISHING THEIR BONA FIDES IS CLEARLY A PROBLEM. WE ARE ALSO AWARE OF THE PAST HISTORY OF FRAUD, WHICH INCLUDED PURCHASING IDENTITIES, IN THE FIELD OF CHINESE IMMIGRATION.

13. WE WONDER, HOWEVER, IF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO USE THE CERTIFICATE OF IDENTITY FOR TRAVEL TO THE US FOR ADMISSION (FS 343-A) OR SOME VARIATION THEREOF. SUCH A CERTIFICATE MIGHT PROVIDE A MODICUM OF PROTECTION SHOULD THE APPLICANT BE QUESTIONED BY THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES. OUR THOUGHT WOULD BE TO ISSUE SUCH A DOCUMENT TO AN INDIVIDUAL UPON APPLICATION FOR US CITIZEN DOCUMENTATION IF THE INDIVIDUALS HAVE PROVIDED PROOF THAT THEIR APPLICATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAS A SUBSTANTIAL BASIS.

14. AN ALTERNATIVE, IF IT IS POSSIBLE UNDER THE LAW, WOULD BE TO ISSUE SUCH A CERTIFICATE OF IDENTITY PERMITTING AN APPLICANT TO TRAVEL TO OTHER THAN A US PORT OF ENTRY, I.E. HONG KONG TO PURSUE HIS APPLICATION.

15. WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPT'S VIEWS AND SUGGESTIONS. UNTIL WE HAVE THESE, HOWEVER, WE WILL CONTINUE TO ADVISE INDIVIDUALS THAT IN ORDER TO APPLY FOR DOCUMENTATION IT IS NECESSARY TO COME TO USLO AND WILL OFFER TO INFORM THE PLA GUARDS AT THE GATE THAT THE INDIVIDUAL IS COMING TO THE LIAISON OFFICE FOR AN APPOINTMENT. THIS PROCEDURE PERMITTED DANIEL KELLY TO ENTER THE COMPOUND, BUT APPARENTLY LED TO HIS SUBSEQUENT ARREST.
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